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## Cross-Cutting Issues News for April 3, 2018

**Bloomberg  
Environment**

**Environment & Energy**

### Highlights

#### LEADING THE NEWS

##### Pruitt's Family Stayed at Lobbyist's \$50-A-Night Condo

**By Jennifer A. Dlouhy and Susan Decker**

The Environmental Protection Agency says family members of Administrator Scott Pruitt also stayed in the Capitol Hill condominium partly owned by the wife of an energy lobbyist under his \$50-per-night lease, but that the arrangement doesn't violate ethics regulations.

#### **TODAY'S NEWS**

##### Justice Department Sues to Overturn California Federal Lands Law

**By David Schultz**

The Justice Department sued against California April 2 over a state law that blocks federal land sales.

##### Senate Prepares to Fill Trump Team's Management Gaps

**By Nancy Ognanovich**

A push is underway to fill holes remaining in President Donald Trump's lineup of deputy department heads—the managers who oversee the day-to-day work of the federal government's 2 million civilian employees .

## Environmental Enforcement Chief: Some Cases Best Left Out of Court (Corrected)

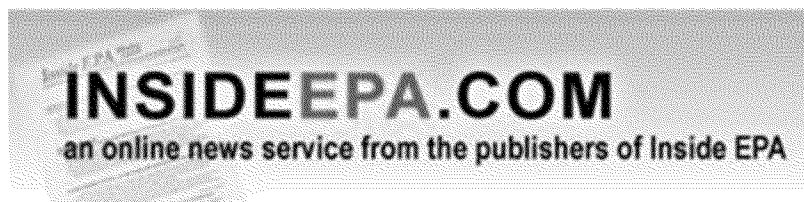
By David Schultz

The top environmental official at the Justice Department wants his attorneys to avoid taking enforcement cases to court when possible and encourage companies to self-report their problems.

## Coal Generator That Trump Tried to Save Files for Bankruptcy

By Jim Polson

A power generator that pleaded for the Trump administration's help in bailing out struggling coal and nuclear plants has filed for bankruptcy.



## Redefining EPA

Overhauling an agency and its mission

<https://insideepa.com/agency-at-a-crossroads>

Inside EPA's Risk Policy Report, 04/03/2018

<https://insideepa.com/newsletters/risk-policy-report>

### Latest News

#### **D.C. Circuit Signals Support For EPA's 'Regional Consistency' Air Policy**

Judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit are signaling they could uphold EPA's air policy allowing agency regions' "nonacquiescence" to adverse appellate rulings that only affect states in other regions, after the judges at oral argument said they were unable to conceive of a remedy to satisfy the policy's critics.

#### **Power Sector GHGs Continue Drop But Cuts Offset By Other Sectors' Growth**

Continued reductions in power sector greenhouse gas due to shuttering of coal-fired power plants drove a decline, albeit at a slower pace than in previous years, in total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2017, though the reductions were offset by large increases in the transportation and other sectors, according to a new analysis based on recent government data.

#### **Judge Opens Door To Novel Post-Closure Suit But Parties Eye Objections**

A federal magistrate judge has opened the door to Colorado pursuing some first-time claims seeking to force the Army and the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to comply with post-closure requirements at the former Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) site in a case that tests states' ability to enforce land use controls at contaminated sites.

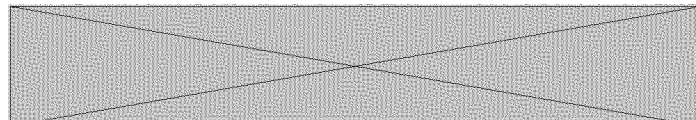
### Daily Feed

#### **Environmentalists challenge landmark GHG NEPA review**

The suit tests the adequacy of a landmark environmental review that used the social cost of carbon metric to assess the project's greenhouse gas impacts.

#### **Ewire: Can Scott Pruitt 'survive' after condo scandal?**

In today's Ewire: Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) says he is not sure how Scott Pruitt can "survive" as EPA chief after he secured a \$50-per-night lease on a Capitol Hill condo connected to an energy lobbyist.



# EPA

## More questions about Pruitt's condo

Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, April 2, 2018



Ethics questions have swirled around U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt renting a Capitol Hill condo, pictured here, tied to a lobbyist whose firm's clients have business before the agency. Kevin Bogardus/E&E News

Cherry blossoms were in bloom this morning on the quiet Capitol Hill street where U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt once lived part of last year when in Washington.

The condo — in an ornate brick building, well-landscaped outside — where Pruitt bunked, however, has become the focus of new ethics questions surrounding the EPA chief. Pruitt signed an unusual lease to live there, having to pay rent only for the nights he slept there, and his former landlord's spouse is a lobbyist whose clients have business before the agency.

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) said yesterday on ABC News' "This Week" that Pruitt's time in the Trump administration may be coming to an end.

"I don't know how you survive this one, and if he has to go, it's because he never should have been there in the first place," Christie said.

Christie, who was replaced as head of President Trump's transition team by Vice President Mike Pence, said a better-run transition effort would have stopped such ethical issues from emerging.

"This was a brutally unprofessional transition," he said. "This was a transition that didn't vet people for this type of judgment issues, which could have been seen very easily in a lot of these people."

### 'Market value'

One question regarding Pruitt's stay in the condo, which he left last July, is whether he paid a fair price in rent.

On Friday evening, EPA shared a [memo](#) with reporters stressing that Pruitt had paid "market value" for the apartment. Signed by Kevin Minoli, a top career lawyer and the agency's designated ethics official, the memo was dated March 30 — the day after ABC News first broke the news Pruitt had lived in the lobbyist-linked condo.

"As EPA career ethics officials stated in a memo, Administrator Pruitt's housing arrangement for both himself and family was not a gift and the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations," EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox said.

The memo said if Pruitt had used the space for 30 days, he would have paid \$1,500 in monthly rent, which was "reasonable market value." The lease also had two provisions, allowing Pruitt's immediate family to stay with him and not requiring payment when the condo "was not utilized," thus equaling \$50 per night.

"Neither of these two provisions render the rental cost under the lease as something other than market value. Therefore, entering into the lease was consistent with federal ethics regulations regarding gifts, and use of the property in accordance with the lease agreement did not constitute a gift as defined in those regulations," the memo said.

Pruitt's daughter stayed with the EPA chief in the condo while she clerked in the White House counsel's office this past summer. In its memo, EPA said that was allowed under the lease, but Vicki Hart, Pruitt's former landlord, has suggested otherwise.

"If other people were using the bedroom or the living quarters, I was never told, and I never gave him permission to do that," Hart told [ABC News](#).

In addition, \$50 a night would be a low fee to pay in the area of Pruitt's former condo, just a block from the Senate office buildings. Airbnb properties in the neighborhood start at about \$100.

### 'What landlord would do that?'

The lease provision to pay by night has drawn questions, too.

Joe Sandler, a partner at Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock PC who advises clients on ethics law, told E&E News the EPA memo was "completely ridiculous."

"No one says, 'I'm going to lease something for 30 days, but you only have to pay me for the nights you stay there.' What landlord would do that?" said Sandler, who has represented Democratic candidates in the past. "He is getting something far below market value, which is against the ethics rules."

Another ethics lawyer had questions regarding the pay-by-night provision in Pruitt's lease.

"It doesn't seem you were able to lease it out to others since he had his possessions there," the lawyer said. "What is utilization there? Do you have to spend the night there? That seems to be a narrow reading of utilization of the facility. ... You can be utilizing the facility without having to sleep there."

If Pruitt was found to have paid below-market rent for the condo, he could run into trouble. Executive branch employees are not allowed to accept gifts from prohibited sources, like lobbyists or someone who has business interests with their agencies.

"He is prohibited under the Trump ethics pledge and the law from receiving gifts from prohibited sources, like a lobbyist. That is why it is important he pays fair market value under the lease," said the ethics lawyer.

Others are not following the EPA memo's reasoning on Pruitt's condo lease.

"He and his daughter took over a two-bedroom condo at a fraction of its value, subsidized by lobbyists," said Craig Holman, government affairs lobbyist for Public Citizen, who has asked in a [letter](#) that the EPA inspector general investigate the matter.

Steven Hart, Vicki Hart's husband, is chairman and CEO of Williams & Jensen PLLC, which reported lobbying EPA in 2017 on behalf of at least two of its clients, OGE Energy Corp. and Owens-Illinois Inc. Hart told E&E News that he doesn't lobby the agency and has had no lobbying contact with EPA in 2017 or 2018 ([Greenwire](#), March 30).

EPA has had to pay expenses related to the condo, too.

[The Washington Post](#) reported Friday that the agency reimbursed the condo association \$2,460 after Pruitt's security detail broke through the door last March when guards couldn't initially contact the EPA chief.

Pruitt's time in the condo is also drawing interest elsewhere. Washington's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs [tweeted](#) Friday that it would "conduct an investigation" to see whether the property had the appropriate license to house guests per night.

## Fundraisers

The condo where Pruitt stayed is also a frequent political fundraising spot, including hosting several events for Republican lawmakers during the EPA chief's time there, according to fundraiser invitations compiled by the Sunlight Foundation, a transparency watchdog group. EPA calendar records show Pruitt was out of town for some of the fundraisers but not for others. EPA press officials didn't respond to questions from E&E News for this story, including whether Pruitt appeared at any of the condo's fundraisers.

Showing up at a fundraiser wouldn't be an issue for Pruitt, however, as long as he wasn't asking for contributions or using his official position to boost a campaign. The ethics lawyer said the EPA chief would just have to be "a wallflower" at the events.

Sandler cited the Hatch Act, which forbids federal employees from engaging in politics on government time.

"He cannot solicit political contributions. He cannot be on a host committee," Sandler said. "He could attend a fundraiser, though.

That's not a violation of the rules. The Hatch Act is what applies here."

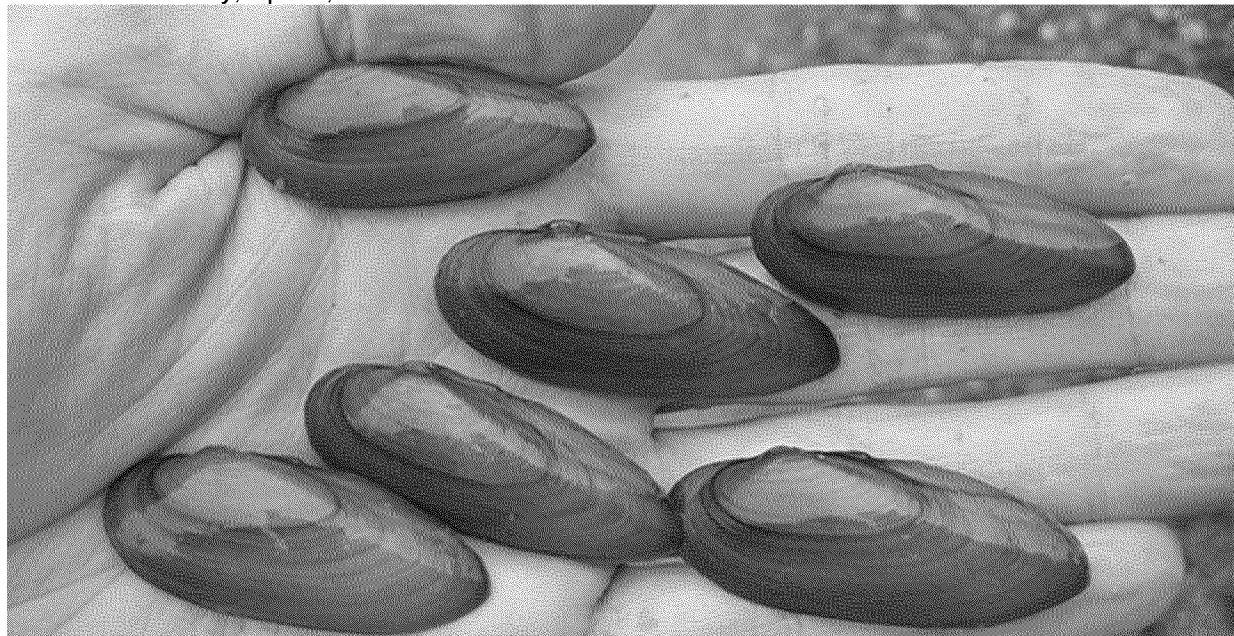
Pruitt has backed out of fundraisers before as EPA chief. Pruitt was scheduled to be the Oklahoma Republican Party gala's keynote speaker last year but skipped the event after an [invitation](#) made note of his status as administrator ([Greenwire](#), April 27, 2017).

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

### Mid-Atlantic mussel — valuable and bizarre — gets listed

Michael Doyle, E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, April 2, 2018



Yellow lance mussels have bright-yellow shells that darken to brown or black with age. Chris Eads/North Carolina State University/Center for Biological Diversity

After years of study and litigation, the Fish and Wildlife Service today listed the yellow lance freshwater mussel as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Though still found in Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina, the yellow lance's population has shrunk in places by between 50 and 70 percent. In some places, it's disappeared altogether.

"Even the most optimistic model predicted that only two populations will remain extant in 50 years, and those populations are expected to be characterized by low occupancy and abundance," the Fish and Wildlife Service warned.

Farming, suburban sprawl, dams and invasive species have all strained the mussel's habitat, scientists say.



"Significant portions of all of the river basins within the range of the yellow lance are affected by development," the FWS reported, adding that "aquatic invasive species are invading aquatic communities and ... competing with native species for food, light, or breeding and nesting areas."

The ubiquitous Asian clam, for instance, snatches resources and also causes dangerous ammonia levels to rise in surrounding waters when they die off in big bunches. The flathead catfish is a voracious predator that similarly does the yellow lance no good. Pollutants like gasoline, oil and fertilizers that wash into streams can kill mussels and other aquatic organisms. Climate change hurts, too.

"Because low flows in late summer and early fall are stress-inducing, droughts during this time of year result in stress and, potentially, an increased rate of mortality," the service noted.

The yellow lance is found in drainages from the upper Chesapeake River Basin in Maryland to the Neuse River Basin in North Carolina. They are bright yellow and usually about 3.4 inches in length. They love sand, and they improve water quality by filtering out small particles as they eat.

Their reproductive lives are rather unnerving.

The males release sperm into open water, which are drawn in to fertilize the egg. A small, wiggling extension of the female mussel then lures a passing fish, which becomes an unwitting host to a microscopic larvae after trying to eat the lure. The larvae grows and eventually drop off the fish.

The yellow lance's protected status as a threatened species formally takes effect 30 days after its publication tomorrow in the *Federal Register*.

The agency adds that it's still conducting "a careful assessment of the economic impacts that may occur" with the eventual designation of critical habitat for the species.

Critical habitats can become politically dicey. So far, though, the yellow lance has stirred relatively little excitement on the regulatory front, with only 22 public comments coming in response to the initial FWS listing proposal last April (*E&E News PM*, April 4, 2017).

Opponents of listing the species included the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation.

"We do not and will not support [ESA] proposals that ignore landowner impacts and sound science in those management strategies," the farm group wrote last year.

The agency first identified the yellow lance as a "candidate species" in 1991. That status didn't last, but a subsequent petition prompted the FWS in 2011 to acknowledge that "listing may be warranted."

After nothing happened, the Center for Biological Diversity sued and secured a 2015 settlement in which FWS agreed to a deadline for making a listing decision.

## COAL

### Leasing demand slumped in year after Trump lifted moratorium

Dylan Brown, E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, April 2, 2018



Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke last March touted the Trump administration's executive order lifting the coal leasing moratorium.

@SecretaryZinke/Twitter

*Correction appended.*

Demand for federal coal has fallen since the Trump administration ended the Obama-era ban a year ago on leasing public land for mining.

When the moratorium ended on March 29, 2017, coal companies had applied to lease 2.8 billion tons of federal coal. Today, they have pending applications to lease 1.9 billion tons via 35 leases — 25 new applications and 10 by modifying current leases.

At issue is a historic market downturn that depressed industry mining bids (*Greenwire*, Aug. 29, 2017).

Only a small part of the decline was due to the Bureau of Land Management's processing of lease requests.

BLM leased 40.42 million tons of coal during the past year, but only one of the six leases sold had been blocked by the moratorium. The rest had exemptions for approvals made prior to the Interior Department's imposing the ban or emergency leases to avoid mine and power plant closures.

In February, Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt had to apologize after mistakenly claiming that the approval of three Colorado leases — 10.1 million tons at the West Elk mine and 4.66 million tons at the King II mine, a decrease from previous estimates — was "only possible" thanks to the Trump administration ([E&E News PM](#), Feb. 1).

That was true for just one lease, an additional 8.66 million tons at Lighthouse Resources Inc.'s Black Butte mine in Wyoming. The amount of federal coal sold since the moratorium's end was dwarfed by the total amount of coal that companies took off the table last year.

Last year, companies withdrew five applications that included 901 million tons of coal.

All the withdrawn leases were in Wyoming, the top coal state in the country's top coal-mining region, the Powder River Basin. The biggest was Arch Coal Inc.'s pulling its application for 440.4 million tons at the Black Thunder mine, the second-largest coal operation in Wyoming and the nation.

Most recently, industry leader Peabody Energy Corp. [withdrew](#) a request for a 26.6-ton lease at its Rawhide mine. Tonnage in new lease applications fails to make up the difference.

The five leases that have come in during the past year totaled only 16.96 million tons of federal coal.

At its Twentymile mine in Colorado, Peabody has requested an additional 5.2 million tons, and GCC Energy LLC wants another 6.8 million tons at the King II mine.

Two new lease modifications were also filed at Utah's largest mine — Bowie Resource Partners LLC's Sufco mine — but the amount requested was unavailable in BLM data.

Nationwide, the number of existing leases also dropped from 303 tracts in 2016 to 298 tracts in 2017. Of the leases relinquished, three were in Wyoming, one was in Colorado and the last was in Oklahoma.

# Coal leasing activity since March 29, 2017

State	Mine	Type (serial #)	Acres	Tons (millions)
Lease applications sold				
Colorado	West Elk	LMA* (COC1362)	800	9.54
Colorado	West Elk	LMA (COC67232)	920	0.56
Colorado	King II Mine	LMA (COC62920)	951	4.66
North Dakota	Falkirk Mine	LBA** (NDM107039)	320	2.2
Wyoming	Antelope	LMA (WYW177903)	856	14.8
Wyoming	Black Butte	LMA (WYW6266)	450	8.66
Lease applications withdrawn				
Wyoming	Buckskin	LBA (WYW172684)	1,253	167
Wyoming	Belle Ayr	LBA (WYW180238)	1,874	253
Wyoming	Haystack	LBA (WYW159423)	300	14.3
Wyoming	Black Thunder	LBA (WYW172388)	2,371	440.4
Wyoming	Rawhide	LMA (WYW83395)	291	26.6
Lease applications filed				
Colorado	Twentymile	LBA (COC078449)	640	5.2
Colorado	King II	LBA (COC078825)	3,183	6.8
North Dakota	Coyote Creek	LBA (NDM110277)	320	4.96
Utah	Sufco	LMA (UTU63214)	50	N/A
Utah	Sufco	LMA (UTU84120)	470	N/A

## Flat demand

Interior didn't respond to a request for comment about whether the leasing downturn has tempered Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's optimism about what lifting the moratorium would do for the coal industry.

Observers never expected a leasing uptick as the industry continues to correct and contract after a dismal last decade.

"There are enough leases out there to go at least another decade without anybody having to lease any more coal," Wood Mackenzie Research Director Daniel Ruzs said.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration last week predicted that coal demand would remain flat for several decades.

But coal companies still appreciate the Trump administration heeding their concerns.

Rick Curtsinger, a spokesman for Cloud Peak Energy, which is actively pursuing nearly 1 billion tons in leases at all three of its Powder River Basin mines, said Zinke has "ended the witch hunt" begun by his predecessor.

But environmentalists recently scored a major legal win when the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana told Interior to take another look at its analysis of climate change impacts from coal leasing ([Energywire](#), March 26).

"The court rightly recognized the fundamental disconnect between the need to rein in carbon pollution and the way BLM has proposed to manage our public lands and minerals," said Western Environmental Law Center attorney Kyle Tisdell, who represents environmental groups in the case. "We hope BLM's second chance will lead to better action."

With the impact of that decision still up in the air, the main factor affecting coal leasing is the price of the fuel that has become its chief rival.

"As natural gas prices go, so does coal production," Ruzs said.

[Click here](#) for a list of pending leases.

**Correction:** A previous version of this story included an incorrect legal venue for a case on Interior's analysis of coal leasing's climate change impacts.

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

### Picky lynx return with help of 50,000 rabbits

Published: Monday, April 2, 2018

After teetering on the brink of extinction less than two decades ago, the Iberian lynx is back thanks to European efforts to breed and relocate the species — and thanks to a whole lot of rabbits.

The Iberian lynx was declared the world's most endangered feline after a 2002 census found 100 left in the wild. The cat is a picky eater that chooses to chase rabbits almost exclusively.

The European Union funded a program that has helped the population bounce back to nearly 550.

Two decades ago, the lynx was found only in two areas, but now it can be found across nine parts of southern Spain and Portugal. A Spanish program released 50,000 rabbits into these areas over the last five years.

Disease has shrunk rabbit populations, driving the lynx to cross dangerous roads in search of food and leading to smaller litters.

"This lynx clearly evolved to be a rabbit hunter on the Iberian Peninsula — and the price for being such a precious and specialized hunter is a higher vulnerability," said Urs Breitenmoser, a cat specialist at the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Efforts to breed the lynx have been pricey, like "having a nursery for rich kids, in which you have one teacher for each kid," according to Angelo Salsi, an Italian official in Brussels who manages the European Commission's Life environmental program. The lynx breeding program cost at least \$42 million over the past seven years.

The cat has been a welcome sight to farmers because it eats rabbits (Raphael Minder, [New York Times](#), March 31). — CS

## OIL AND GAS

### Court dismisses lawsuit over crude-by-rail fee

[Amanda Reilly](#), E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, April 2, 2018

A federal court today dismissed an oil and gas industry challenge to a surcharge imposed by one of the nation's largest freight rail networks for transporting crude oil.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found that a law passed by Congress in 2015 had made American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers' lawsuit moot.

BNSF Railway Co. had imposed a \$1,000 tariff on the use of older oil tank cars known as DOT-111s that lack certain safety features. BNSF set its flat surcharge on the older cars shortly before the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration published a final 2015 rule that would phase out their use for transporting crude oil.

AFPM filed suit when the Surface Transportation Board threw out its challenge to the fee. The board found the group should have gone through a complex and lengthy rate process, rather than challenging the tariff as a "practice."

But in 2015, Congress sped up the phaseout schedule for the cars as part of its highway bill. As of Jan. 1, the law mandated that DOT-111s no longer be used for transporting crude

Since the tariff AFPM challenged "is no longer occurring," there is no longer a live controversy for the court to decide, according to today's order.

"The relevant use of the tank cars was phased out by statute," the court's two-page judgment says.

At oral arguments last month, judges had appeared to lean toward declaring the case moot. AFPM, though, had urged the court to still issue a declaratory judgment that could be used by individual refiners to seek damages for tank-car fees ([Greenwire](#), March 9).

But the court ruled AFPM's call to issue a declaratory judgment was "without merit" because the specific circumstance of the case — Congress mooting the case through the passage of new legislation — was "unlikely to recur."

The three-judge panel of the court, though, vacated the Surface Transportation Board's decision on whether AFPM could challenge the tariff because it had also been mooted by the same law.

[Click here](#) to read the court's judgment.

## WISCONSIN

### Pro-mining group has GOP ties

Published: Monday, April 2, 2018

A new pro-mining advocacy group in Wisconsin has Republican ties.

Details about backing for the Natural Resources Development Association were sparse until a spokesman last week provided more information. The group has two leading members: mining development company Aquila Resources Inc. and Meteor Timber, which wants to build a sand processing plant and rail spur in the state.

One of the registered lobbyists for Meteor's parent company is former Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald (R), the brother of Wisconsin Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R).

And the communications director for the association is Nathan Conrad, a former spokesman for the Republican party of Wisconsin who has also worked in communications for U.S. EPA.

So far, the advocacy group has clashed with conservationists while championing industry causes, such as a \$70 million sand processing plant and rail spur proposed by Meteor.

The group sprang up after a law change last year paved the way for mineral mining in Wisconsin for the first time in decades (Lee Bergquist, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 2). — MJ

## TEXAS

### After Harvey, Houston homeowners face brutal choice

Published: Monday, April 2, 2018

After Hurricane Harvey, residents of Houston must make an agonizing choice: Sell their home at a loss or risk suffering through more floods.

The hurricane dumped more than 50 inches of rain on the Houston area, leaving widespread damage in its wake.

If residents of Houston decide to pack up and go, they risk losing money on their homes and forsaking a familiar area for uncertainty.

But if they decide to stay, they must spend a great deal of money and time on rebuilding. They also risk experiencing the brunt of another extreme weather event, as climate change increases both the frequency and intensity of storms.

For Eileen and Jeff Swanson, who live in a two-story brick home in a west Houston suburb, answers don't come easy.

The Swansons, whose 23-year-old son is severely developmentally disabled, paid off their home for \$225,000 just months before Harvey hit. They have little money left over for the \$60,000 worth of repairs and renovations after the storm.

"It feels like our life is somewhere between 'Where do I start?' and 'Why isn't this getting done?'" Jeff Swanson said (Audra Burch, *New York Times*, March 30). — MJ

AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

CLIMATEWIRE — Tue., April 3, 2018

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#### 1. FUEL ECONOMY:

##### Pruitt did it. Here's why he's loosening the car rules

U.S. EPA cast aside a 1,217-page staff analysis to cite automaker arguments in its official declaration to loosen fuel economy rules.

#### TOP STORIES

#### 2. SCIENCE:

##### Keeping the Arctic icy might hinge on half a degree



3.

INTERIOR:

**Parks officials scrubbed climate report**

## SCIENCE

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### 4. ELECTRIC VEHICLES:

**Battery breakthrough could be game changer**

### 5. OCEANS:

**Fish forced to 'move, die or evolve'**

## BUSINESS

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### 6. AUTOS:

**Is Elon Musk the next John DeLorean?**

### 7. EMISSIONS:

**Countries fight CO2 rules for shipping**

## WATER

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### 8. DROUGHT:

**Lessons from Cape Town as 'Day Zero' is averted**

## LIFESTYLE

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### 9. SOCIETY:

**Vegans no longer just 'hippies and punks'**

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AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

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## 1. PIPELINES:

### **EPA and PHMSA clashed on Enbridge spill penalty**

Federal pipeline regulators touted a "record" penalty — \$3.7 million — when they fined Enbridge Energy Partners in 2012 for spilling hundreds of thousands of gallons of crude oil into Michigan's Kalamazoo River. But U.S. EPA's top enforcer, blindsided by their announcement, complained privately to them that the amount was "very small."

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#### TOP STORIES

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## 2. NUCLEAR:

### **Public sentiment, utility contracts still hurdles for Vogtle**

## 3. ALASKA:

### **State owes nearly \$1B to oil explorers. How will it pay?**

## 4. PIPELINES:

### **Fresh environmental review in progress for Keystone XL route change**

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#### ELECTRICITY

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## 5. UTILITIES:

### **FirstEnergy Solutions seeks exit from coal plant venture**

## 6. SECURITY:

### **Cyberattack hits major pipeline service provider**

## 7. COAL:

### **FirstEnergy request for help tests Trump alliances**

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#### OIL AND GAS

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## 8. SAFETY:

### **Gas distributor Atmos linked to 4th home explosion this year**

## 9. BUSINESS:

### **Oil investors prize cash over drilling, ConocoPhillips-style**

## 10. OFFSHORE DRILLING:

### **Bahrain makes historic oil and gas find**

## 11. PRODUCTION:

### **BLM greenlights fracking in Colorado's Whitewater Basin**

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